

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 12-37 are pending herein. Claims 1-11 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer in favor of new claims 18-25. The following Table shows the relationship between cancelled claims 1-11 and new claims 18-25.

Original Claim	New Claim
1, 2, 3	18
4	19
5	20
1, 6	21
1, 7	22
1, 8, 9	23
10	24
1, 11	25

Additionally, claims 26-37 have been added as supported by page 134, lines 8-26 of the specification, for example. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added.

1. Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 12-17 are allowed. Additionally, Applicants appreciate the Examiner indicating that claims 3-7 and 9-11 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 3 has been cancelled in favor of new independent claim 18, which includes all of the limitations of cancelled claims 1-3. Claim 6 has been cancelled in favor of new independent claim 21, which includes all of the limitations of cancelled claims 1 and 6. Claim 7 has been cancelled in favor of new independent claim 22, which includes all of the limitations of cancelled claims 1 and 7. Claim 9 has been cancelled in favor of new independent claim 23, which includes all of the limitations of cancelled claims 1, 8 and 9. Claim 11 has been cancelled in favor of new independent claim 25, which includes all of the limitations of cancelled claims 1 and 11. Additionally, claims 4 and 5 have been

cancelled in favor of new claims 19 and 20, respectively, which ultimately depend from claim 18, and claim 10 has been cancelled in favor of new claim 24, which depends from claim 23. In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 18-25 define patentable subject matter over the prior art and thus are in condition for allowance.

2. Claims 26-37 have been added as supported by page 134, lines 8-26 of the specification, for example. Claims 26-37 recite a method for producing an optical switch. Claims 26-30 correspond to new claims 18-22 and claim 31 corresponds to claim 25. Applicants respectfully submit that claims 26-31 are in condition for allowance for the same reasons the Examiner indicated the corresponding original dependent claims to be allowable. Additionally, claims 32-37 correspond to claims 12-17, which the Examiner has indicated are allowable. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 26-37 define patentable subject matter over the prior art and thus are in condition for allowance.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the PTO is requested to issue a Notice of Allowance as soon as possible.

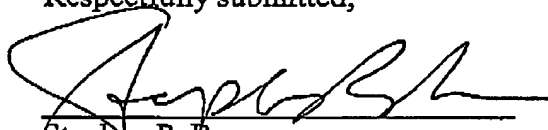
The Examiner is requested to confirm receipt and consideration of the Information Disclosure Statement filed October 2, 2002 and the Identification of Copending Application document filed August 2, 2001.

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If the Examiner believes that contact with Applicants' attorney would be advantageous toward the disposition of this case, the Examiner is herein requested to call Applicants' attorney at the phone number noted below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 5D-1446.

Respectfully submitted,


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April 26, 2004
Date

SPB/SEC/gmh

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